(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Recently there were certain press reports about alleged irregularities in Renal Transplantation at Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantt in 2004, which were investigated by the Civil Police Authorities. Certain civilians in the case have been charge-sheeted and they are facing trial. A Court of Inquiry has also been ordered by the Army Authorities. It has been clarified by the Hospital Authorities through press that the hospital is strictly following the guidelines contained in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Human Organs Transplantation Rules, 1995. No fresh incident has come to the notice of the Government.

CBI Inquiry against private company related to former soldiers

†3889. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Committee had recommended CBI inquiry of a private company related with former soldiers working in the Gevra-Deepika Coal Blocks of Chhattisgarh in view of the complaints received against it;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has recommended that the responsibility of its investigation be given to CBI;

(c) whether the case of permission for CBI inquiry is pending with the Ministry of Defence because the above company is related with the former soldiers of defence;

(d) if so, by when and at which level officers this case is pending in the Ministry of Defence; and

(e) the details of complaints received against the above company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the Group of Members of Parliament constituted by Ministry of Coal which visited the South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL) coal fields in April, 2007, recommended a CBI inquiry into the working of Ex-servicemen Coal Transportation Companies. Based on the recommendation of the Group of Members of Parliament the issue of nexus between Ex-servicemen, Coal Transportation Companies and private parties has been handed over to CBI for investigation.

Resentment due to poor pay package

3890. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pay Panel had recommended hike of only 13-15% in take-home packages of Major to Brigadier ranks with the result that the many Army officers have reportedly expressed the desire to quit their posts in protest;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry proposes to review the Pay Panel's recommendations because the Army is already short of 11,153 officers and the situation is likely to worsen if their demands are not met; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when Government proposes to review/implement its revised decision so as to stop "poor pay which triggers Army exodus"?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The VI Central Pay Commission in its Report has recommended the following Revised Pay Scales for Army officers of the rank of Major to Brigadier;

Rank	Pre-Revised Scale+Rank Pay (Rs.)	Revised Pay Scale+Grade Pay+ Military Service Pay (Rs.)
Major	11600-325-14850+1200	15600-39100+6100+6000
Lt Col	13500-400-17100+1600	15600-39100+6600+6000
Colonel	15100-450-17350+2000	15600-39100+7600+6000
Brigadier	16700-450-18050+2400	15600-39100+8400+6000

No definite trend is noticed with respect to premature retirement/resignation subsequent to submission of VI Central Pay Commission Report.

The Government has not taken any final decision on the recommenadations of the VI CPC.

Indictment of MOD by CAG

3891. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its recently submitted reports has indicted Defence Ministry for 57 gaping irregularities in acquisition process for the VIP aircraft and defective ammunition;

(b) if so, why his Ministry has deviated from the laid down procedures and well recognized norms of propriety in contracting the VIP aircraft valuing US$ 50 million without the benefit of competition and ammunition posing a risk to troops; and

(c) how army commanders with limited financial powers to meet operation requirements, squandered Rs. 10.75 crore in procuring stores not covered under their powers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Reports Nos. 4 & 5 of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2007 presented to Parliament on 14th March 2008 contains, *inter-alia,* Paras relating to acquisition of VIP Boeing Business Jets, avoidable loss due to acceptance of defective ammunition and misuse of special financial powers delegated to Army Commanders. The extant instructions provide for submission of Action Taken Notes on the audit observations to the Ministry of Finance for onward transmission to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Opening of defence airstrips to commercial use

3892. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some 30 defence airstrips will be opened up for commercial traffic helping to reduce congestion at the existing airports;